

is a family values issue; lifting the burden of this awful debt off of our children is a family values issue. But we can do it without breaking Medicare and bankrupting the ability of middle class families to know that their parents can get the health care they need while they educate their children. We can do both, but we must do both. It's not an either-or choice.

I think maintaining what you see behind me is a family values issue, and making it available for all the American people. And I think being willing to honestly confront some of the most difficult conflicts in our society where short-term economic gain will cause a heavy price over the long run is also an important part of our maturing as a country.

And let me just mention one issue, a difficult one. Everybody told me that I—all my political advisers told me I had taken leave of my senses when I said it was time to stop walking away from the terrible health consequences of teenage smoking. But I believe the United States is right to say this is a children's disease. Kids are being addicted, 3,000 kids a day start smoking, 1,000 of them—1,000 of them will have their lives shortened as a result of it. I think that is a family values issue, and we should take it and face it together.

So if we're going to do this, it is important that we remember the kind of self-confidence that was demonstrated in Wyoming when women got the right to vote. It is important that men and women, with all their differences, political and otherwise, have the level of self-confidence to sit down and say, America is still a great big family. Like every great big family, there's a whole lot of differences, and there's always going to be a whole lot of argument, and we're always going to be looking at some of our family members cross-eyed, like we do our second cousin that we wish wouldn't show up to the reunion. [Laughter] But there are limits to the extent to which we can demonize one another. We've got to treat each other with respect and work through these things.

And if we really want the day when women will become full partners in the decision-making process in America—and we believe that's a good thing—and we want to face

these issues which will determine whether we go into the 21st century with the American dream alive and well and the American community strong and together, we have got to have that level of self-confidence. We have got to remember that every time, every time we have faced the choice between going forward with freedom or fairness, two things symbolized by women, we have had to deal with the demon of insecurity in our country and even inside.

And we have heard all these proclamations, all these Chicken Little proclamations that every change we make—that we knew we ought to make would cause the sky to fall, and we're still around after almost 220 years because somehow, somehow when it came time to make the decision, we decided Chicken Little was wrong.

Blind justice was right; the Statue of Liberty was right; and the kind of self-confidence displayed by the people of Wyoming when they led the world in giving women the right to vote was right. It was right then, and it still is.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11:30 a.m. at Jackson Lake Lodge on the 75th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution. In his remarks, he referred to Rosemary Shockley, president, League of Women Voters of Wyoming.

### **Statement on the United States District Court Decision on the Child Support Recovery Act** *August 28, 1995*

On July 26, 1995, the United States District Court for the District of Arizona struck down the Child Support Recovery Act as an unconstitutional exercise of congressional power. I respectfully disagree with this decision. I asked the Justice Department to review this case, and the Department has filed a motion asking the court to reconsider its decision.

The Child Support Recovery Act gives us the power to punish deadbeat parents who cross State lines to avoid paying child support. It is essential for Federal law enforcement to have this authority because the

States cannot bring these criminals to justice, especially the hardcore group of parents who flagrantly move from State to State to evade their obligations.

A child should be able to expect the most basic support from those who chose to bring that child into the world. Parental responsibility does not end at the State line. The taxpayers of America should be able to expect that the burden of caring for these children will be placed on the shoulders of the parents, where it rightfully belongs.

### **Message on the Observance of Labor Day, 1995**

*August 28, 1995*

Each year at this time we pause to reflect on the value of labor and the accomplishments of the American worker. This country's success depends on the efforts of its citizens to open the door to a better future. Work is the engine that drives our economy forward, moves struggling families upward into the middle class, and creates opportunities for our children. We must continually strive to create more opportunity for work for those who are willing to take the responsibility to make better lives for themselves and their families. Our labors ensure that the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will benefit generations to come.

Let us give thanks to those who came before us and who strived to improve working conditions and create fair labor laws. They risked their livelihoods and often their very lives to ensure that children could go to school instead of to work in mines and factories, that laborers could work without risking injury, and that Americans who toiled throughout the week would be rewarded with a decent living and could spend more time raising their families. These reformers brought dignity to the workplace and integrity to our society.

Today, we recognize that management and labor face common challenges and a shared destiny in the global economy. We must continue our efforts to create further job growth and new opportunities, enabling more of our citizens to realize the American Dream. As we celebrate Labor Day, we can find

strength and renewed inspiration in the Dream—the idea that we can be good workers as well as good parents and that, through our individual efforts, we can build better lives for our children.

Best wishes to all for a memorable and meaningful holiday.

**Bill Clinton**

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus**

*August 28, 1995*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. The previous report covered progress through May 31, 1995. The current report covers the period June 1, 1995, through July 31, 1995.

Throughout the period, my representatives continued efforts to urge meaningful negotiations among the parties and to encourage them to take steps to create a healthy environment for talks and progress on overall settlement issues.

In July, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Richard Holbrooke met with U.S. Presidential Emissary for Cyprus Richard I. Beattie and U.S. ambassadors to the region, as well as private individuals and members of Congress, to consider the current Cyprus situation.

There is general agreement that the recent decision by the European Union (EU) to begin discussion of Cyprus' accession to the EU could provide added motivation to the parties to achieve a settlement. Special Cyprus Coordinator James A. Williams visited a number of EU member countries during this period to consult on ways to take advantage of this opportunity to move the peace process forward.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29.